

For 8177. b. 39  
The Reverend D<sup>r</sup>. Butler



THE  
AMERICAN QUERIST.





THE  
American Querist:

O R,

SOME QUESTIONS PROPOSED

RELATIVE TO

THE PRESENT DISPUTES

BETWEEN

GREAT BRITAIN,

AND HER

AMERICAN COLONIES.

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By a NORTH-AMERICAN.

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*We are not to think every clamorous Haranguer, or every  
splenetic Repiner against a Court, is therefore a Patriot.*

Bishop BERKLEY.

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Printed in the Year 1774.

THE  
AMERICAN QUESTION

SOME QUESTIONS PROPOSED

RELATIVE TO

THE PRESENT DISPUTES



AMERICAN COLONIES

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By a North American

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With notes and an appendix

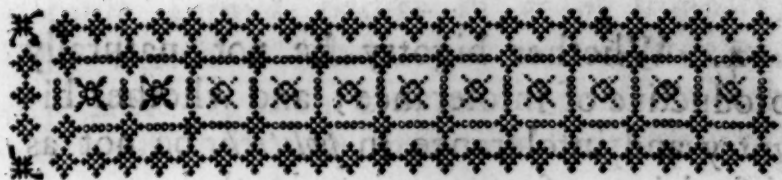
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By the same author

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Printed in New York





## THE AMERICAN QUERIST.

1. **W**HETHER *Americans* have not a right to speak their sentiments on subjects of government; and whether all attempts to check and discourage freedom of speech; any farther than to prevent the licentious abuses of it, are not to be considered as unwarrantable usurpations, tending to introduce and establish a bondage of the worst kind?

2. Whether *Americans* have not an equal right to express their sentiments, when they happen to differ from, as when they happen to correspond with, the *popular* opinion?

3. Whether I differ more from another, than he differs from me; and, consequently, whether he has a better right to abuse me for a difference of sentiment, than I have to abuse him?

4. Whether

4. Whether bigotry be not naturally productive of intolerance; and whether bigotry and intolerance in *politicks* be not as absurd in reason, as mean in their nature, and as destructive to society, as bigotry and intolerance in matters of religion?

5. Whether there can be a greater proof of bigotry, either in religion or politicks, than an obstinate resolution to hear or see nothing that is offered on the subject in question, by persons who are supposed to be of different sentiments?

6. Whether such a resolution be not also a proof, that a man is *conscious* of the *weakness* of his cause, and *afraid* of the force of those arguments which may be offered against him?

7. With regard to the present disputes between the *British American* colonies and their mother country, Whether there be not many of the colonists, who, by refusing to hear or see what is offered on the side of government, betray the above-mentioned consciousness and fear?

8. Whether

Is it said that many persons, and some who hold places of trust under government, have put a stop to their *Newspapers*, not because the advocates for the colonies are not allowed

8. Whether political bodies do not resemble animal bodies in many respects; and whether, when they are disordered, the same regimen and management which are needful for one, may not be proper for the other, in similar cases?

9. Whether the *American* colonies do not consider themselves as composing one distinct political body †; and whether this body does not appear at this time to be deeply disordered?

10. Whether the disorder of the colonies, to speak in language taken from animal bodies, be not of the *feverish* kind, as it is attended with an irregular high pulse, and discovers, in some parts, a dangerous swelling and inflammation; and whether it has not been occasioned, in a great measure, by their own *imprudence* and *intemperance*?

11. Whether *beating doses* do not, in all cases, tend to increase a fever; and whether inflammatory publications and harangues

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allowed fair play by the *printer*, but because those who are disposed to think more favourably of the administration than some of their neighbours, are allowed to speak.

† "They form one political body, of which each colony is a member."

*Pennsylvania Farmer's Letters.*

rangues be not so many heating doses, with regard to political bodies ?

12. Whether, in investigating the nature and cause of disorders, and in fixing upon a method of cure, we ought not to have recourse to plain facts, and to general and established principles, instead of being governed by the advice, and relying upon the opinions of notorious quacks and empiricks, who have an interest in deceiving us ?

13. Whether some degree of respect be not always due from inferiors to superiors, and especially from children to parents ; and whether the refusal of this on any occasion, be not a violation of the general laws of society, to say nothing here of the obligations of religion and morality ?

14. Whether what constitutes right conduct among men, does not constitute right conduct among societies, or bodies of men, with regard to one another ; and whether the latter can be less criminal, or their conduct less disgusting and shocking to the genuine feelings of the *moral sense*, when they transgress the common rule of duty, than the former ?

15. Whether



15. Whether *Great-Britain* bears not a relation to these colonies, similar to that of a parent to children; and whether any parent can put up with such disrespectful and abusive treatment from children, as *Great-Britain* has lately received from her colonies?

16. Whether all true friends to the colonies, with whatever zeal they may think themselves bound to assert and support their claim, ought not, from a regard both to duty and safety, on every proper occasion, to express their disapprobation of a behaviour, which is indecent and shameful in itself, and which has brought upon the *Americans* the indignation of a power, which the proudest nation in *Europe* reveres, and under whose resentments the strongest would tremble?

17. Whether it be a mark either of wisdom or candour to believe, declare, or insinuate, that *Great-Britain* has acted altogether from wrong motives, and the colonies altogether from right ones?

18. Whether there can be any medium between being subjects and not subjects; and whether, if the *Americans* be not *British* subjects



subjects, they are not, with regard to *Great-Britain*, aliens and foreigners?

19. Whether, if the colonies be a part of the great *British* community, they are not necessarily subject, in all cases, to the jurisdiction of that legislative power which represents this community, or, in other words, to the *British* parliament?

20. Whether the supreme legislative authority of every nation does not necessarily extend to all the dominions of that nation; and whether any place, to which this authority does not extend, can justly be said to be a part of its dominions?

21. Whether, in consequence of a general grant, particular claims, founded upon partial constructions and remote inferences, which are contrary to the apparent interest and design of the granter, can be valid, either in law or in equity?

22. Whether any *direct* evidence has hitherto appeared in favour of the exemption for which the colonies contend; and whether it does not concern the managers of their cause, previously to any other steps, to produce *such* evidence in support of their claim?

23. Whether

23. Whether there be any proof or probability, that, when the first grants of land in *America* were made by the *British* crown to *British* subjects, it was intended by the former, or understood by the latter, that they were to be no longer subject to the supreme legislative authority of the *British* nation ?

24. Whether, supposing this to have been really intended, it was in the power of the crown to alienate any part of its dominions, without the advice and consent of parliament ?

25. Whether the above supposition does not imply, that the executive power is able at pleasure, to annul, alter, or restrain the legislative power, which is the greatest absurdity ?

26. Whether the exemption contended for be not inconsistent with the nature of dependent colonies, and compatible only with the idea of independent states ?

27. Whether a right in the colonies to choose which laws of *Great-Britain* they will obey, and which they will disobey, would leave any obligation to obedience at all ?

28. Whether,

28. Whether, in such a case, the *Americans*, being not *English* subjects, can claim the protection of the English laws, or talk of their rights as *Englishmen*, with any propriety?

29. Whether there has ever been a time, since the settlement of the colonies, in which the nation appears to have thought, that it had not a full and compleat right of jurisdiction over them, notwithstanding the privileges granted them by charter?

30. Whether there has ever been a time, in which the colonies appear to have thought, that the nation had not a full and compleat right of jurisdiction over them, till about the year 1764?

31. Whether more was expressly granted, or meant to be granted, by charter, to any of the colonies, than authority for regulating respectively their own *police*; and whether such an authority, granted for the purpose of internal regulation and government, can be fairly construed to exempt any society, or incorporated body whatever, from the supreme legislative power of that nation, to which it belongs?

32. Whether, on the contrary, obedience  
to

to the laws of *Great-Britain*, without any restriction or exception, was not clearly observed in all the charters granted to the colonies; and particularly, whether the *right of parliament to lay taxes*, was not expressly and literally observed in the charter of *Pennsylvania*?

33. Whether therefore the *Pennsylvanians* ought not now to be out of the question, as they can have no plausible pretence for urging a claim, from which they have been precluded by their own ~~former~~ stipulation? *formal*

34. Whether the first charter which was granted, for the purpose of *colonization*, by the crown of *England* in 1606, and the second, which was granted three years afterwards, did not subject the two *Virginia* companies to laws made by a council of the proprietors residing in *England*, first nominated by the crown, and afterwards to be elected by the proprietors residing in *England*; and whether the same charters did not provide, that even the King might tax all the inhabitants within the grant, by his sole prerogative, without consulting his parliament, and appropriate the monies, thus raised by taxes, for the use and benefit of the crown only?



35. Whether the territory granted upon these terms did not extend from latitude 34 to latitude 45, and include all the country lying between *Carolina* and *Nova-Scotia*, and consequently the present *New-England* colonies; the inhabitants of which originally settled under the very charters above-mentioned, after having purchased from one of those companies?

36. Whether the *Massachusetts* company had authority, under their first charter, to assess or tax the inhabitants for any purposes whatever; and whether their *having levied money of the inhabitants* was not alledged in the writ of *scire facias* issued against their charter, in the reign of *Charles* the second, as an act of notorious delinquency, upon which, judgment was given against them in the court of King's-Bench, and the charter vacated?

37. Whether, in the new charter, which was granted them by *William and Mary*, and under which they have been governed to the present year, the power of levying taxes is not restrained altogether to provincial and local purposes, and allowed to be exercised over such only as are *inhabitants* and *proprietors* in the province, so that the *English* traders



traders and their goods, which may happen to be in any of the ports of the province, are entirely exempted from this authority?

38. Whether the whole tenor of this charter does not operate against the claim that is made by the people of the *Massachusetts Bay*, evidencing the limitation of *their* legislative authority, instead of restraining the power of the *British* parliament?

39. Whether the charter granted to Lord *Baltimore*, in 1632, did not expressly provide, that the inhabitants of *Maryland*, for the future, should be separated from *Virginia*, and not dependent upon the government of that, or any other colony; BUT, that they should be *subject immediately to the CROWN of England, as depending thereof forever?*

40. Whether the charters granted by *Charles the Second*, to the inhabitants of *Connecticut* and *Rhode-Island*, are more than bare charters of incorporation, erecting them respectively into corporate bodies, and empowering them to perform corporate acts, in the same manner, say the charters, “ as *other* our liege people of *this our* “ *realm of England*, or any other corpora-  
C 2 “ tion,

“tion, or body politic, within the same ;” necessarily implying, that they were thought to be within the realm of *England*, and subject in all cases, to the supreme authority of the realm ?

41. Whether the charter of *Carolina*, granted in the same reign, did not fully declare the like dependency of the inhabitants, in the following words : “ Our will  
“ and pleasure is, that they be subject immediately to our crown of *England*, as  
“ depending thereof forever ; and that the  
“ inhabitants shall not, at any time, be  
“ liable to answer to any matter out of our  
“ said province, other than in our realm  
“ of *England*, and dominion of *Wales* ?”

42. Whether subjection to the *Crown* of *England* ever meant, in public instruments, subjection only to him who held the crown of *England*, in his *private* or *personal* capacity ; and whether the laws do not always mean, by the authority of the crown, the supreme authority of the nation, represented by the crown ?

43. Whether the use of the great seal of *England*, in ratifying the grants above-mentioned, does not prove that, in each instance,

instance, the whole affair, on one side, was a public transaction, and in behalf of the nation, and that the subjection, or dependency, expressly reserved, was to be of the same extent with the authority that required it?

44. Whether it does not appear from acts that have been made in every reign, since the founding of the colonies, that it was the sense of parliament, that its authority over the *American* plantations was as full and unlimited, as over any other part of his Majesty's dominions?

45. Whether the preamble to an act of the parliament in 1650, although the act itself was unconstitutional and invalid, did not express the opinion of the wisest men in the nation, and even of the *sons of liberty*, at that time, with regard to the point in question, when it declared, concerning the colonies and plantations in *America*, that they had “ ever, since the planting there—  
“ of, been, and ought to be, subject to  
“ such laws, orders and regulations, as are  
“ or shall be made by the parliament of  
“ *England* ?

46. Whether the following acts, viz. of the 12th, 15th, and 25th of *Charles II.*—  
of

of the 7th and 8th of *William and Mary*, and more particularly an act passed the same year, entitled, “ An act for preventing “ frauds, and regulating abuses in the plantations,” and an act of the 11th, of the same reign, for the tryal of pirates in *America*—an act of the 9th of *Queen Ann*, for establishing the post-office, in order that “ her Majesty may be *supplied*, and the *revenue* arising by the said office better *improved, settled and secured to her Majesty, her heirs and successors*”—and the several acts made in the late reign, relating to the manufacturing of hats, the naturalization of foreigners, and rendering lands in *America* affets, &c. I say, whether such a succession of such acts does not afford compleat evidence, that the parliament has always claimed, and exercised, an unlimited jurisdiction over the colonies, whenever the occasion was thought to require it?

47. Whether in the late reign, when the assembly of *Jamaica* withheld the usual grants for the support of government in that island, and the ministry desired the opinion of those two eminent lawyers, Sir *Clement Wearg*, and Sir *Philip York*, then attorney and solicitor general, on this point, whether the King, or his privy council,



council, had not a right to levy upon the inhabitants the taxes that were wanted; they did not reply in the following words: "That if *Jamaica* was still to be considered as a *conquered* island, the King had such a right; but if it was considered in the same light with the *other colonies*, no tax could be imposed on the inhabitants, but by the assembly of the island, or by *act of parliament*."?

48. Whether the right of parliament to impose taxes upon the colonies, which appears to have never been questioned in *England*, was not generally admitted in the colonies, and the exercise of it thought expedient and necessary so very lately as in 1755?

49. Whether the congress at *Albany* in that year, consisting of gentlemen of the first character from most of the colonies, did not approve of, and agree to, the proposal of general *Shirley*, that "application should be made to *parliament*, to empower the committees of the several colonies to tax them," in proportion to their respective abilities, in order to raise a general fund for the common defence?

50. Whether



50. Whether, when Mr. *Shirley's* plan, including this proposal, was laid before the assembly of *New-York*, it was not resolved by that house, after a proper discussion of all the particulars, “ That the scheme proposed by governor *Shirley*, for the defence of the *British* colonies in *North-America*, is well concerted, and that this colony joins therein ?”

51. Whether it could have been the opinion of general *Shirley*, or of the gentlemen at the congress, or of the house of assembly in *New-York*, that the parliament could delegate a power to others, with which they were not vested themselves ?

52. Whether it has not been a standing maxim with our judges and lawyers, however some of them may have departed from it lately, that the original settlers of the colonies brought over with them the laws of *England* that were then in force, from which they were not released by any subsequent charters ; and that all acts of parliament that have passed since that period, in which the design of extending them to the colonies is expressed, have, and ought to have, the force and obligation of laws upon the colonies in general ?

53. Whether

53. Whether the utmost claim of the colonists, at the time of the late *stamp-act*, was more than an exemption from the authority of parliament, as far as it related to *internal taxation, for the purpose of a revenue?*

54. Whether it was not then allowed by the public advocates for *American* liberty, that the parliament had a right to regulate the trade of the colonies, and to lay duties both on their imports and exports †?

55. Whether

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† The very respectable author of a leading pamphlet in those times, entitled, *Considerations on the propriety of imposing taxes, &c.* declares his opinion in the following words. "The subordination of the colonies, and the authority of the parliament to preserve it, have been fully acknowledged. Not only the welfare, but perhaps the existence of the mother-country, as an independent kingdom, may depend upon her trade and navigation, and these (may depend) so far upon her intercourse with the colonies, that, if it should be neglected, there would soon be an end to that commerce, whence her greatest wealth is derived, and upon which her maritime power is principally founded. From these considerations, the right of the *British* parliament, to regulate the trade of the colonies, may be justly deduced; a denial of it would contradict the admission of the subordination, and of the authority to preserve it, resulting from the nature of the relation between the mother country and her colonies. It is a common, and frequently the most proper method to regulate trade by duties on imports and exports. The authority of the mother country to regulate the trade of the colonies being unquestionable, what

D

" regulations

55. Whether the parliament, receding from, but not meaning to give up, the right of taxation, did not then meet the colonies upon their own ground, exercising no more than the right that had been admitted, of regulating their trade, and imposing duties upon a few of their own exports to the colonies ?

56. Whether

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“ regulations are most proper, are to be of course submitted to the determination of the parliament; and  
 “ if an *incidental revenue* should be produced by such regulations, these are not therefore unwarrantable.

“ A right to impose an internal tax on the colonies, without their consent, *for the single purpose of a revenue*, is denied; a right to regulate their trade, *without their consent*, is admitted. The imposition of a duty may, in some instances, be the *proper* regulation. If the claims of the mother-country and the colonies should seem on such an occasion to interfere, and the point of right to be doubtful (which I take to be otherwise) it is easy to guess that the determination will be on the side of power, and that the inferior will be constrained to submit.”

The worthy author of the *Pennsylvania Farmer's Letters*, says: “ The parliament unquestionably possess a *legal authority* to regulate the trade of *Great Britain and all her colonies*: such an authority is essential to the relation between a mother country and her colonies, and necessary for the common good of all. He who considers these provinces, as *states distinct from the British empire*, has very slender notions of justice, or of their interests: we are but *parts of a whole*, and therefore *there must exist a power somewhere to preside and preserve the connection in due order*; this power is lodged in the PARLIAMENT.”

56. Whether a regard to decency and consistency ought not to have produced in the *Americans* a quiet and peaceable submission to an act, which was framed on the very principles that had been so lately established, in behalf of the colonies? But,

57. Whether the colonies did not then introduce a new distinction, to take off the force of their former concessions, contending that duties laid upon the *necessaries* of life, such as paper, glass and paint (which, by the way, can be called necessaries only by a violent *hyperbole*) were *equivalent* to an internal tax, and therefore inadmissible?

58. Whether the parliament, in farther compliance with this distinction, did not then withdraw the duties they had laid upon *such* necessaries, reserving only, as a mark of their authority to impose taxes, a small duty of three pence per pound, upon an article of sheer luxury, which can never be materially useful to any of the colonies, and which has been very hurtful to all of them, occasioning such an expensive manner of living as the inhabitants in general are unable to afford?



59. Whether the opposition now made to this trifling duty, upon a hurtful luxury, is not as general, as vigorous, as clamorous, and as injurious to private property, and the alarm of danger to our constitutional rights, founded with as much vehemence and vociferation, as in the time of the stamp-act ?

60. Whether the facts here alluded to, following one another in so close a succession, do not amount to a clear proof, that every indulgence or concession granted to the colonies operates against the authority of parliament, as for every inch given from a principle of generosity, an ell is demanded as matter of right ; and whether the inference be not natural, that nothing less will satisfy the colonies, than an absolute renunciation of all claim of authority or jurisdiction, in the *British* parliament ?

61. Whether the maxim, that *Englishmen* are bound by no laws but such as they consent to, either personally, or by their representatives, has not been grossly misunderstood by our *American* patriots, and very absurd inferences been drawn from it.

62. Whether

62. Whether the *English* constitution does not make the king and parliament the representatives of all the people within the kingdom, whether they be actual electors or non-electors?

63. Whether a great part of the people in *England* can be said to give their consent to the laws that are made, by any other representatives than these?

64. Whether persons who have a right to vote in the election for members of parliament, are not often bound by laws, to which they consent in no shape, except as above-mentioned; they not approving of the laws; and even the members for the county or borough, in which they voted, opposing and protesting against the laws at the time of making them?

65. Whether, for instance, a duty has not been laid upon hops, and an excise upon cyder, when the hop-growers, and the makers of cyder, and their friends in parliament, have used their utmost influence to prevent the passing of the law?

66. Whether therefore the consent given by them to the law, was not a consent without their approbation or liking;  
and

and whether such a consent, which is the only one given by many *Englishmen*, be the privilege for which the colonies contend?

67. Whether therefore the maxim, that *Englishmen* are bound only by laws to which they consent, can be true, otherwise than of the nation *collectively*, or the body of the people, while great numbers of them are forced to submit to many laws with reluctance?

68. Whether, if it were allowed to the colonies to send members to parliament of their own chusing, they would accept of the offer?

69. Whether, while they would refuse to send members to parliament, they have any right to exclaim against acts of parliament, on account of their having no members in parliament to represent them distinctly?

70. Whether the privileges enjoyed by virtue of the *English* constitution of government are not *political* privileges; and whether the *natural* right of the *Americans* can entitle them to the political privileges of *Englishmen*,

*Englishmen*, any more than to the political privileges of *Dutchmen* || ?

71. Whether upon a review of the arguments that have been used in favour of the colonies, it be reasonable to expect that the *British* parliament will be convinced by them; or that, without conviction, after their right to govern, and regulate the trade of, the colonies; has been so indelicately questioned and denied, they will not assert it in such a way, as shall be thought most expedient and effectual.

72. Whether an effectual support of the authority of parliament, after such a denial of it, can be supposed to have so light an effect upon the property of *Americans*, as the small duty upon tea, if quietly submitted to, necessarily would have?

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|| This query is occasioned by the *resolves* of some of our former assemblies, and of some of our late county committees, and by an *English* pamphlet, lately re-printed in *New-York*, entitled, *Considerations on the measures carrying on with respect to the British colonies in America*. The author of the pamphlet, who writes altogether *ad populum*, founds the claim of the *Americans*, first, upon the *natural rights* of mankind; secondly, upon the *English* constitution; and, thirdly, upon the provincial charters. He offers not much in support of the *first* of these points, because the position would not admit of much to be said in its favour; he says but very little in support of the *second*, because he has more  
*respect*



73. Whether therefore those patriotic gentlemen, and patriotic *labourers* and *mechanicks*, who have urged on a greater evil, in order to avoid a less, are in reality, whatever they may have intended, friends to their country?

74. Whether interested, designing men—or men who court popularity as the great *Sultana* of their affections—or ignorant men, bred to the lowest occupations, who have no knowledge of the general principles upon which civil society should be always established—are any of them qualified for the direction of political affairs, or ought to be trusted with it?

75. Whether the old rule, *Ne futor ultra crepidam*, be not a good rule, and proper for this day?

76. Whether the colonies, in a great measure, have not, for ten years past, been under an iniquitous and tyrannical government, namely, the government of unprincipled

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*respect* for those able persons who have handled the subject before him, *than to go over it again so much to its disadvantage*; and he says nothing at all upon the *third*, because he very judiciously thinks it best, to *leave the particulars of this subject to themselves* (the *Americans*) *who are best acquainted with them*.

cipled *mobs* ; and whether experience has not yet convinced us, that this mode of governing a country is most detestable ?

77. Whether the *sons of liberty* have ever *willingly* allowed to others the liberty of thinking and acting for themselves ; and whether any other liberty than that of doing as *they* shall direct, is to be expected during their administration ?

78. Whether it would not be safer, both to our liberty and property, to be under the authority of the *British* parliament, and subject to all those duties and taxes which they might think fit to impose, than to be under the government of the *American sons of Liberty*, without paying any duties or taxes at all ?

79. Whether the unavailing opposition that has been made to parliament has not, since the commencement of the present year, been a greater expence to the *Americans*, if we allow for the neglect of business, and extraordinary tavern expences, than all the duties with which the parliament would probably charge us, would amount to in fifty years ?

E 80. Whether

80. Whether if the *British* parliament should only leave us to ourselves, as some wise persons have seriously advised ; or if we were able to compel them to submit to our own terms, which no wise person can imagine that we are ; either event would not be as great a calamity to the colonies, in its natural consequences, as the pestilence or a famine ?

81. Whether, without the superintending authority of *Great Britain* to restrain them, the colonies would not probably be soon at war among themselves ; and whether without the same authority to protect them, they would not probably soon become a prey to some foreign power ?

82. Whether, if the connexion of the colonies with *Great-Britain* were dissolved, they must not immediately put themselves under the protection of some maritime power, less able to defend them, and less disposed to indulge their froward and petulant humour ?

83. Whether, in such a case, they would not be obliged to pay dearly for the protection afforded to their ships abroad, or to their sea-ports at home ; and whether this would not be a much heavier burthen, than  
that

that of the duties that have been demanded by the *British* parliament ?

84. Whether there can be any prospect of peace or safety to the colonies, while they are under the displeasure, and exposed to the resentments of *Great-Britain* ?

85. Whether therefore the reconciliation of *Great-Britain* to her colonies be not a matter of capital and supreme importance, to promote which, every *American* is bound, in duty to his country ; and as he values *the peace of Jerusalem*, to contribute his best wishes, prayers and endeavours ?

86. Whether every thing that tends to obstruct so desirable an event, ought not to be conscientiously avoided, and treated with abhorrence ?

87. Whether *Great-Britain* can be supposed at present to be in such a condition, or of such a temper, as patiently to put up with our bullying and abusive language, to submit to our reproaches, or to be intimidated with our threatenings ?

88. Whether, on the other hand, the continuance of such provocations will not necessarily increase the indignation of a  
 E 2 power



power that is irrisistible by us, and render an accommodation impracticable, but upon terms the most humiliating to the colonies?

89. Whether the several colonies, by having chosen delegates to represent them at the congress, have not taken the matter in dispute out of the hands of the people; and whether those, who, notwithstanding, still endeavour farther to inflame the passions \* of the populace, already intoxicated with a few magical sounds, are not to be considered and treated as incendiaries, scattering abroad the firebrands of faction, in order to bring on the conflagration of their country?

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\* As a specimen of the language with which the minds of the deluded Americans are poisoned against the government, by some of our weekly news-papers, the following passage is selected from HOLT's paper of August 18 :

" We are assured that Captain William Bull, in a sloop  
 " from this place, but last from the West-Indies, is arrived  
 " at Wilmington, North-Carolina, and that the inhabi-  
 " tants of that place have bought his vessel, and are  
 " loading her with provisions for the support of the town  
 " of Boston; which ought to be supported at the expence  
 " of the last mite, and even the last drop of blood in North  
 " America, for their noble stand against the oppression and  
 " tyranny of a miserably corrupt, debauched, and almost  
 " bankrupt administration, devoid of sense, humanity, and  
 " every principle superior to that of meer brutes; an ad-  
 " ministration, compared with whom a common highway  
 " robber is almost a saint."

90. Whether

90. Whether what is farther to be offered on the subject in dispute, should not be addressed to the gentlemen of the *Congress*, who are entrusted with, and answerable, in no small degree, both in this world and the next, for, THE FATE OF THE COLONIES; and whether, in that case; if we mean not to affront them, cool and impartial representations and reasonings ought not to characterise our future political productions?

91. Whether full confidence ought not to be reposed in the wisdom, the prudence, and patriotic spirit of our representatives at the congress, who are generally men of property, and have much more to risque than most of their constituents?

92. Whether it be not time for our farmers and mechanics, and labourers, to return to their business, and the care of their families; and all serious Christians, to a sense of their duty?

93. Whether it does not become us to employ the present interval of reflexion, in examining, how far the principles that have been propagated amongst us are conformable to reason, and productive of good or evil to society;

society ; and whether, in reality, they deserve to be countenanced or discouraged ?

94. Whether it would be amiss, at the same time, to consider, how far the supreme governor of the world, from whose jurisdiction no resolves of town-meetings can exempt us, may be supposed, from the declarations he has made, to approve of our conduct ?

95. Whether the prosperity of states, and of all public societies, does not depend upon his blessing ; and whether his blessing is to be otherwise expected, than in the way of conformity to his precepts ?

96. Whether he has given any dispensation to the body of the people, under any government, to refuse *honour*, or *custom*, or *tribute*, to whom they are *due* ; to contract habits of thinking and *speaking evil of dignities*, and to weaken the natural principle of respect for those in authority ?

97. Whether, on the contrary, he does not command us to *submit to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake* ; and require us on pain of *damnation*, to be duly *subject to the higher powers*, and *not to resist* their lawful authority ?

98 Whether

98. Whether, if it should finally appear, that the claim of the *British* parliament is just, and according to law, it be not a necessary consequence, that the colonies have resisted that *power*, which is *ordained of God*, and are in the high road to open rebellion ?

99. Whether those, who on the present occasion, so zealously proclaim their attachment to *revolution principles*, give not too much reason to suspect, that they are fond of revolutions ? But after all,

100. Whether it be not a matter both of worldly wisdom, and of indispensable Christian duty, in every *American*, to *fear the Lord and the King, and to meddle not with them that are GIVEN TO CHANGE?*



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